9.

ENGLAND'S Great Happineſs.

OR, A

DIALOGUE

BETWEEN

CONTENT *and* COMPLAINT.

WHEREIN

Is demonſtrated that a great part of our Complaints are cauſeleſs.

And we have more Wealth now, than ever we had at any time before the Reſtauration of his ſacred Majeſtie.

By a real and hearty Lover of his King and Countrey.

Say not thou, What is the cauſe that the former daies were better than theſe? for thou doſt not enquire wiſely concerning this. Eccl. 7. 10.

LONDON,
Printed by *J. M.* for *Edward Croſt*, and are to be ſold at the *Printing-Preſs* in *Cornhill*. 1677.

12109

THE CONTENTS OF THIS DIALOGUE.

To export money our great advantage. p. 3.
To consume Callico more profitable for us, than other Foreign Linnen. p. 4.
The Norway *Trade a profitable Trade.* p. 5.
The French *Trade a profitable Trade.* ibid.
Gilded Leather in a short time like to be made as cheap here, as in Holland *or elsewhere.* p. 6.
Variety of Wares for all Markets, a great advantage. ibid.
High living a great improvement to Arts. ibid.
An account of such as were great Traders formerly. p. 7.
Invitation of Foreign Arts a great advantage. p. 8.
Multitudes of people an advantage. p. 9.
Examples of profit by Foreign Arts. ibid.

A

Church-Yard, 1677.

The Contents.

A Hearty Wiſh. p. 10.
Encloſure its advantage. p. 11.
Horticulture a great advantage. ibid.
Whether lawful to encloſe. p. 13.
Reaſons for the Act call'd Trade encourag'd. ibid.
A way to encloſe in ſpite of the Rabble. p. 15.
Multitude of Traders a great advantage. p. 16.
Advantages of many Traders. p. 17.
A Diſſwaſive from murmuring. p. 18.
The word Impoſſible a great diſcourager of Arts. ibid.
Signs of Wealth. p. 19.
A Compariſon. p. 20.
Our preſent complaints. ibid.
A good Reſolution. p. 21.
Some Scriptures againſt murmuring. p. 22

The

The Author to his Book.

MY little Book, when you do look
Into the World that's curious;
You muſt take care, you don't ill fare
From thoſe men that are furious

Againſt all things that reaſon brings
To contradict their humours;
And ſcarce are pleas'd, unleſs they're eas'd
By ſpreading forth falſe rumours.

But if that they ought 'gainſt thee ſay,
And make it truth appear;
Then I'l ſubmit and think it fit,
That you the blame ſhould bear.

But if they will be murm'ring ſtill,
Partic'larizing men, that idly ſpend,
Or fates do lend a hand to Ruine: then
'Twill be but meet Poor Robin *ſee't,*
And anſwer them with glee, becauſe ſuch fools
Are the fit tools T'employ ſuch men as he:

ENGLAND'S Great Happineſs;

OR A DIALOGUE BETWEEN *Content* and *Complaint.*

Content. HOw do you, Mr. *Complaint?*

Complaint. Your Servant Sir, I'm glad to ſee you well: What News?

Cont. Why, all the talk is of the *Blazing-Star*, and Whale that's come to *Colcheſter.*

Compl. God grant they forbode no ill News, I'm afraid on't. The French King they ſay is at *Callice.*

Cont. Well, what then, I hope he knows the way back to *Paris.*

Compl. Nay he need not come hither, here

Church-Yard. 1677.

are enough already to eat us up, I profeſs there's no trade, I don't know what we ſhall do, there is not a penny ſtirring, and men break like mad, if theſe times hold we ſhall be all undone.

Cont. You Complainants are a ſort of the worſt condition'd people in the World, I won't ſay 'tis impoſſible for God to pleaſe you, but I'm ſure his Bleſſings of Peace and Plenty won't.

Compl. Plenty ſay you! yes, here's plenty enough of broken Merchants and Citizens.

Cont. True, one of them of a ſort is too much, but yet I dare ſay there is more wealth in *England* at this time, than ever was at any before his Majeſties Happy Reſtauration.

Compl. What then makes the Complaint?

Cont. Becauſe ſuch as you are hardly ever well when you are doing otherwiſe.

Compl. You talk ſtrangely.

Cont. Well, I think 'tis ſo eaſie to make out, that while we are drinking a glaſs of Wine, I may convince, or put you to a non-plus.

Compl. Say'ſt thou ſo? Well I'le try, but inſtead of Wine let's drink a diſh of Coffee; for I profeſs whatſoe're you think, I find them hard times.

Cont. Well, a match, but I ſuppoſe you go thither becauſe 'tis the Complaining School, and you may be entertain'd with falſe jealouſies an hour for a penny. Come Boy give me a diſh of Tee, for I'm for ſomething that heats and wets, and by its ſweet taſte give ſome reaſon to be contented.

Compl. For all this give me ſome Coffee.

Cont.

Cont. Well, now let's hear your Complaints, and we'l conſider them one by one.

Compl. There are a great many at preſent, I'le only mention five, *viz.*

1. Carrying the Money out of the Nation.
2. People's over-high living.
3. The too many Foreigners.
4. The Encloſure of Commons.
5. The multitude of people that run into trade, and ſell ſo cheap that one can't live by another.

Cont. Are theſe your great Complaints? I can hardly forbear laughing, for theſe rightly conſidered are ſome of our main temporal advantages. A great encreaſe whereof would make us ſo rich as to be the envy of the whole world.

Compl. I ſhould be glad if 'twere ſo, I pray let's hear what you can ſay for the exportation of money. There's law againſt it, and a great many wiſe men complain of the *Eaſt-India Company* for that reaſon.

Cont. I muſt not gainſay Law; there was once a law to ſtint the making of Malt; but ſome of our Gentlemen are now of other minds, witneſs the Act for exportation of Beer, Ale, and Mum. The complaints againſt the *Eaſt-India* Company, if they were for the Nation's happineſs, would they were encouraged, and let it go as our Parliament ſhall in their wiſdom think fit, but ſome wiſe men think it beſt as 'tis, however 'tis our great advantage to export Money: For the aforeſaid Company brings in a great many

Our great advantage to export money.

ny more goods than we conſume, the over-plus whereof is exported: By which part I ſuppoſe none will diſpute a profit. Wherefore whatſoever they bring in more, muſt be all exported, (we being already over-ſtockt) which undoubtedly will enrich us according to its proportion. But this they cannot do without money. For I ſuppoſe them men that very well underſtand their own intereſt (by which I am apt to judge all) and do think that if they could ſell that cloth in *India* for two and twenty Shillings, which coſts them here twenty, and ſell enough, they would never carry out one penny: for they pay no freight out, and two and twenty Shillings if it be really two and twenty Shillings, will buy more goods than twenty Shillings will do. But if the *Indians* will not buy our goods, they muſt have our money, or we muſt knock off that Trade which the *Dutch* will heartily thank you for, and give you a golden god to boot.

Comp. Ah but we conſume abundance of their Commodities here.

It is more profitable for us to conſume *Callico*, than other foreign linnen.

Cont. Beſt of all, for the more *Callico* we uſe, the leſs other linnen, and that ſaves abundance of wealth by being to us (at firſt hand eſpecially) much cheaper; and alſo pulling down the price of forreign linnen, I have heard ſome ſay almoſt half. But about this *India* trade you may ſee more at large by ingenious Mr. *Mun*; and a Letter call'd The *Eaſt-India* trade a moſt profitable trade to the Kingdom, printed 1677.

Comp. This is ſomething, but what think you of

of the *Norway*-trade that takes away ſo many of our Crown pieces?

Norway trade a profitable trade.

Cont. I think well of that too, for that kind of timber we cannot be without, and I ſuppoſe our land can be better imploy'd than in great groves of ſuch like. It alſo employs a great ſhipping, and makes us build Houſes, Ships, and Caſes for Merchandiſe, at cheap rates, and if we might have a thouſand Saw-Mills, for ought I know they might do us as much kindneſs as Engine-Looms, and for all the talk of the ſhort ſighted Rabble, employ twice the people too.

Compl. You ſpeak plain, but what think you of the *French* trade? which draws away our money by whole-ſale. Mr. *Fortrey* whom I have heard you ſpeak well of, gives an account that they get ſixteen hundred thouſand pounds a year from us.

Cont. 'Tis a great ſum, but perhaps were it put to vote in a wiſe Council, whether for that reaſon the trade ſhould be left off, 'twould go in the negative. For Paper, Wine, Linnen, Caſtle-Sope, Brandy, Olives, Capers, Prunes, Kid-skins, Taffaties, and ſuch like we cannot be without; and for the reſt which you are pleas'd to ſtile *Apes* and *Peacocks* (although wiſe *Solomon* rankt them with Gold and Ivory) they ſet us all a-gog, and have encrea'd among us many conſiderable trades: witneſs, the vaſt multitudes of Broad and Narrow ſilk Weavers, Makers of Points, and white and black Laces, Hats, Fanns, Looking-Glaſſes, and other glaſſes as I'm told the beſt in the world, Paper, Fringes, and gilded Leather,

The *French* Trade a profitable Trade.

Leather, which in a ſhort time is like to be made as cheap here, as in *Holland* or any other place. Wine of ſeveral fruits, Sider, Saffron, Honey, Spirits, and ſuch like: and ſome cauſe improvements by farther Manufacture, others we export with great profit, and have a great variety to ſatisfie all ſorts of Markets, cauſing their Neighbours that ſell the like, as Salt, Wine, Linnen, *&c.* to ſell us much cheaper with abundance other advantages. I muſt confeſs I had rather they'd uſe our goods than money, but if not, I would not loſe the getting of ten pound, becauſe I can't get a hundred; and I don't queſtion but when the *French* gets more foreign trade, they'l give more liberty to the bringing in foreign goods. And I think you'l be aſham'd to deny the Canary's a little when *Spain* yields you ſo vaſt quantities. I'l ſuppoſe *John a Nokes* to be a *Butcher*, *Dick a Styles* an *Exchange-man*, your ſelf a *Lawyer*, will you buy no Meat or Ribbands, or your wife a fine *Indian* Gown or Fann, becauſe they will not truck with you for Indentures, which they have no need of? I ſuppoſe no, but if you get money enough of others, you care not though you give it away *in ſpecie* for theſe things: I think 'tis the ſame caſe.

Variety of Wares for all markets a great advantage.

Compl. 'Tis well if it be as you ſay, but what think you of your next propoſal? Our High Living.

Cont. He that ſpends more than he is able to pay for, is either fool or knave, or in great neceſſity; but I ſuppoſe not this to be the Nations caſe; for if it were, we muſt owe more to other

A general High Living a great improvement to arts.

other Nations than they to us, though we gave them all we have to boot, which if you think, moſt of the Merchants that have foreign Factories in the *Eaſt* or *Weſt Indies*, *Africk*, *Streights*, *Spain*, *Portugal*, *Baltick*, *Eaſt Countrys*, *Hanſe-Towns*, *Scotland*, *Ireland*, with *France* and *Holland* too, will condemn you. But our height puts us all upon an induſtry, makes every one ſtrive to excel his fellow, and by their ignorance of one anothers quantities, make more than our markets will preſently take off; which puts them to a new induſtry to find a foreign Vent, and then they muſt make more for that market; but ſtill having ſome over-plus they ſtretch their wits farther, and are never ſatisfied till they ingroſs the trade of the Univerſe. And ſomething is return'd in lieu of our exportations, which makes a further employment and emprovement.

If it won't do this, why do you complain of *France* getting our money for their trifles? if it will, why ſhould we not encreaſe it as high as ever it is poſſible? If we make ſix conſiderable Laces and export but one, I ſuppoſe for it we may bring in more money than the firſt coſt of them all; which is far better than to import one and let our people ſit idle for want of imployment.

The former great traders.

The *Venetian*, *Spaniard*, *Portugeeze*, *Dutch*, and *Engliſh* have drove the great trade of the world, and fetcht the gold and ſilver: but when they had done, they eagerly carried it to *France* to buy their guegawes, and thereby made them always conſiderable: and I had rather get a thouſand

ſand pound by lace and fringes, than nine hundred by the beſt broad-cloth that ever I ye ſaw.

That honeſt way that finds moſt employment and gets moſt money, is ſure the beſt for any Nation, and this fine manufacture joyn'd to our ſhipping will perhaps make us the moſt potent the Sun ſhines on.

Take away all our ſuperneceſſary trades, and we ſhall have no more than Tankard-Bearers, and Plow-men; and our City of *London* will in ſhort time be like an *Iriſh* Hut, or perhaps *Carthage* mentioned in *Virgil Traveſte.*

If you have reaſon, here's enough to ſatisfie: but if not, ſhould I bring ten thouſand undeniable arguments you'd ſtill complain.

Compl. I meet but with very few of your mind: but I pray let's hear your thoughts of the next propoſal? which is, That 'tis our happineſs to have abundance of Foreigners, for I'm ſure the general cry is that they eat the bread out of our mouths, they ſell their goods when we can't, they work cheaper than we, live in holes, pay neither ſcot nor lot; and if we ſhould have many more of them, ſure we ſhould have nothing to do.

Invitation of Foreigners a great advantage.

Cont. You are never well full or faſting; you cry up the *Dutch* to be a brave people, rich, and full of Cities, that they ſwarm with people as Bee-hives with Bees; if a plague come, they are fill'd up preſently and ſuch like; yet they do all this by inviting all the World to come and live among them. You complain of *Spain* becauſe their

their Inquiſition is ſo high, they'l let no body live among them, and that's a main cauſe of their weakneſs and poverty. You find fault becauſe ſome of our people go to *Ireland*, and the Plantations, and ſay we want people at home to fill our Cities and Countrie-towns, and yet you'l allow none to come and fill up their rooms. Will not a multitude of people ſtrengthen us as well as the want of them weaken *Spain?* ſure it will. Would you not be glad if the Duke of *Lorrain* ſhould deſtroy as many Villages in *France* as are deſtroy'd in *Alſatia*, and thereby deſtroy 100000 people? I dare ſay the moſt part of you would. I pray then would it not do as well if an hundred thouſand *French* would run away leaving their houſes to drop, and fight againſt the *French* King, or at leaſt work for money to pay taxes to them that will? I think you won't gainſay it. In Sr. *Walter Raleigh*'s obſervations concerning the cauſes of the magnificency and opulency of Cities, 'twas the beſt policy that old *Rome* had, and by it they were brought to their height. *Tamerlan* the great was of the ſame mind, and *Conſtantinople* owes its greatneſs to the ſame contrivance. Would not Foreigners living here conſume our corn, cattle, cloth, coals, and all kind of things we uſe? and would not that cauſe our lands to be better till'd, and our trades increas'd? would they not bring ſeveral new trades with them, or help to encreaſe thoſe we have? witneſs the Flemmings in the time of *Edward* the third, the Colonies of *Colcheſter*, *Canterbury*, and *Norwich*,

The advantages of Multitudes.

Examples of profit by Forreigners.

Church-Yard, 1677.

the Silk-trade in *Spittle-Fields*, the Tapiſtrey-makers in *Hatton Garden*, *Clarkenwel*, and elſewhere, Mr *Todin* the rare Pewterer in St. *Martins Lane*, the Husbandmen in the *Fenns*, and divers others, and doth not every Trades-man among them employ two or three *Engliſh* to attend them either in making tools, winding ſilk, or ſuch like, beſides buying all their materials here? Do you think the firſt rough materials of a piece of ſilk of ſix pound a yard coſts twenty Shillings? is not the other five pound better earnt and ſpent here, than to give the whole ſix pound to *France* for't? No man in *England* loves it better than I, and I love no Nation more than another, but for their vertues, or as they relate to the welfare of *England:* but ſome of our great complainers will ſpend a groat when they are not worth two pence, and work but two or three days in the week, therefore others out-do them.

Strangers pay neither ſcot nor lot, 'tis true, but 'tis becauſe they are diſturb'd, and are hardly ſuffer'd (or at leaſt encourag'd) to take houſes, but otherwiſe they'd quickly be like us, and the next generation would not be known from Engliſh.

You ſeldom hear of any diſturbance they make in the State, for they are not all of one mind, and cannot agree if they would, they come for ſafety, quietneſs, and livelyhoods, for which and other good reaſons, if the Paliament think fit, I could wiſh there would twenty thouſand come in next year.

A hearty Wiſh.

Compl.

Compl. At this rate all the World would be invited hither.

Cont. Amen, ſay I; for then our King would be univerſal Monarch, and I'd never fear a prejudice either to Church or State if all were to be hang'd that ſhould teach them cauſeleſs complaining principles.

Compl. Enough of this, but if you are for Encloſures the poor will complain of you, and curſe you to the pit of Hell: and a great many of the rich will give you but little thanks.

Cont. All this ſignifies nothing; one good reaſon prevails more with me than all their cries and curſes, if they were ten fold: and I'm ſure that God is a God of reaſon. As for the Gentry I reſpect them highly, but a great many are more rul'd by a vulgar error, and falſe maxims, than the dictates of their own reaſon. But if I thought it would not be much for the advantage both of Gentry and Commonalty I would not ſay a word more on't. But I pray conſider that inclos'd ground will ſometimes yield treble to what common will, but if ſow'd with Clover, Sant-foin or ſuch like, ſometimes ſix, eight, or tenfold, when Corn bears a good price, and 'tis for the Land's advantage 'tis plow'd too, and after the Crop is off ſow'd with Turnips or ſuch like, and this with the help of good tillage and dung, (which our good Husbandmen know now pretty well how to procure) done every year, when the other muſt lye waſt one in three.

Encloſure and its advantage.

A great deal will be turn'd into Orchards

Horticulture a great advantage.

and Gardens, four or five acres of which ſometimes maintains a family better, and employs more labourers than fifty acres of other ſhall do. Hops, Saffron, Liquoriſh, Onions, Potatoes, Madder, Artichocks, Anſeeds and Coleſeeds will thrive but ill in Common Fields, and I ſuppoſe none will denie an Acre of theſe to yield more money than ſo much Wheat: Whither goes it then? why, ſurely into the owners purſe or labourers pockets.

For the cry that the poor will be ſtarv'd, it is not worth a ruſh, for few of them make the benefit for lack of ſtock, and perhaps they ſpend as much time in looking after their titts, runts, and tupps, as would gain them by an indifferent Handy craft, twice the profit.

And how that pariſh that traded but for ten thouſand pounds a year, and now for twenty thouſand, ſhould be more likely to famiſh, and twice or thrice the employment for the poor ſtarve them, I confeſs is to me a paradox. Ever ſince old *Tuſſer*'s time, it has been obſerved that where there's moſt common, there's leaſt good building and moſt poor.

Encloſure muſt needs encreaſe more great and ſmall cattle, and an encreaſe of Hydes, Tallow, and Wool, with finer manufactures of them than formerly, can never either depopulate or impoveriſh.

Compl. I muſt confeſs that moſt men yield it to be moſt profitable. But is it lawful to take away that we have enjoy'd time out of mind? and we muſt not do evil that good may come on't.

Cont.

Cont. I must confess this is your main argument, and I being neither Divine nor Lawyer perhaps may not give to it so good an answer as ten thousand wiser men can do. But 'tis well that I have prov'd it profitable: But I suppose this Island before it was inhabited to be all Common; which was something altered by the first Occupants, and encreas'd according to the good husbandry, populacy, and needs of the people, and why this prescription should not prevail as much as yours, I know not. It doth in *America*, and I believe all the World over. In *China* I hear there is not an Acre of Common Land. Whether it be lawful to enclose.

I must confess I know no Statute that gives full power to enclose all the Common-Fields, in the Kingdom; but in my weak judgment there are several that do much encourage it. Especially when it is for the advantage of the whole; witness the two first Acts for enclosing the Fenns, and the 4 *Jac.* 11. for part of *Herefordshire*, caus'd by the good husbandry of some of the inhabitants. And I think the 3 *Edw.* 6. & 3. will go a great way. And the inducement and ground of the Act call'd Trade encouraged 15 *Car.* 2. 7. runs thus *verbatim.*

Forasmuch as the encouraging of Tillage ought to be in an especial manner regarded and endeavoured, and the surest and effectuallest means of promoting and advancing any trade, occupation or mystery, being by rendring it profitable to the users thereof, and great quantities The reasons for the Act call'd Trade encouraged.

of

of Land within this Kingdom for the preſently lying in a manner waſte, and yielding little, which might thereby be improv'd to conſiderable profit and advantage (if ſufficient encouragement were given for the laying out of coſt and labour on the ſame) and thereby much more Corn produced, greater numbers of People, Horſes, and Cattle employed, and other Land alſo rendred more valuable.

How far the inducements and grounds of Acts of Parliament run, I know not, but they ſhew their deſigns; and how this can be done better than by Encloſure, my ignorance won't reach to; but I have prov'd it moſt advantageous to the owner, and I think wealth and a treble labour, will quickly encreaſe People, Horſes, and other Cattle, the plenty whereof, of neceſſity muſt quickly make other Land more valuable.

If leave were given, all the barren land in *England* I ſuppoſe would ſoon be improv'd.

I believe you'l be aſham'd to urge the 25. of *Hen.* 8. and 13. becauſe the cheapneſs of our Corn, Cattle, Wool, Pigs, Geeſe, Hens, Chickens, and Eggs, are in a great part the ground of your complaint.

I chiefly aim at that we call Common Field-Land, where men claim a propriety, and can ſay, Thus many acres are mine; but for the other that lye always open, if the Lord of the Manour gets all in his own hand, or the Pariſhioners can agree, I wiſh 'twere all ſo ſerv'd,

and

and I think there's few with good reaſon can be againſt it.

As for the Kings Foreſts and Chaces, if they were imparkt, and kept to himſelf, I believe timber would thrive ne'r the worſe, or the neighbouring corn, nor perhaps would there be a leſs breed of good Horſes; But arguments are endleſs. Boy give me t'other diſh of Tee.

Compl. I pray do nothing raſhly, but drink firſt. Well ſuppoſe I grant that you have law and reaſon enough on your ſide: what will you do againſt the beggarly multitude, that will pull down your Fences, turn Cattel in, and ſpoil your Corn, or what other improvements you ſhall make in your new Encloſure? if you ſue them you know the old Proverb, *Sue a Beggar*, &c. and they have nothing to loſe, their puniſhment will ne'r make you ſatisfaction, and except you have a large purſe, and courage too you may chance be tired.

Cont. 'Tis true, this is a great impediment to the good work, but a great many have conquer'd it, and I believe had the former ages went the ſame way to work, which an ingenious Juſtice, and another of my good friends (whom you well know) have done, we ſhould long e'r this have had more Milk and Honey. For inſtead of narrow Ditches and high banks, which might quickly be thrown down and fill'd with eaſe, they have made their Ditches, ſeven, eight, or ten foot wide, ſix foot deep, and carried away all that ſhould make a hurtful bank, planted quick, and with Damms, ſtop water to fill

A way to incloſe in ſpite of the Rabble.

fill up as high as they can or think neceſſary. By this means the Rabble want materials to refill, unleſs they'l bring it with them, or dig one ditch to fill another. But as what relates to Ryots, Treſpaſſes, and other law tricks, the Countrey-Men I believe are wiſe enough.

Compl. This is a way indeed, ſurely this will do or nothing, but let them incloſe or do in the fields what they will, what can you ſay for the multitude of Trades-men?

Multitude of traders a great advantage.

Cont. Say for them! I have ſaid enough in what I ſaid juſt now of Foreigners: But however ſomething more.

That man that gets moſt money over and above his expences, ſurely will be richeſt; ſo likewiſe will that trade: but ſuppoſe there were formerly twenty Linnen-Drapers (or any other Traders) and they clear'd each five hundred pounds a year, it will amount to ten thouſand pounds; but now there are forty Drapers and by under-ſelling each other they clear each but four hundred pounds a year, this will make ſixteen thouſand pounds. I ſuppoſe this Company do plainly thrive: But ſhould eighty get but three hundred pounds each, it would amount to four and twenty thouſand pounds beſides the employment of four times the Ships and Labourers, with the like encreaſe of his Majeſties Cuſtoms, and this is the caſe of moſt of our old trades, only beſides the quantity of men, the particulars have moſt of them ſo much increas'd their quantities, that with leſs profit they

they every year spend more, and give their Children better portions.

Moreover there are a multitude of new Trades; and that variety of Arts should undo a Nation, I believe was never known in this world or in *Utopia*.

When you keep Bees, you are loth to suffer Drones among them. Good Bees are the seventeen Provinces, and you cry them up to the skies, and say that two or three years peace will make amends for all the Calamities they have endured this War: But the like Industry in *England*, added to a prodigious Plenty, will quite spoil us.

Do not some of our Trades-men spend one or two hundred pounds a year, whose parents never saw forty Shillings together of their own in their lives? Doth it not make the Capons and Custards go off at a good rate? Doth it not mightily encrease his Majesties revenue, by Customs, Excise, and Chimney-Money? Doth it not make a tax light, by having many Shoulders to bear the burden? And were it not for this, his Majestie must like *Spain* and *Denmark*, when he hath occasion hire ships, from perhaps his ill-humour'd Neighbours. But God be thanked things are in a better case, and if I should live forty years longer, I hope to see *London* as big again, and all the Towns in *England* strive to imitate it. The advantages of many Traders.

Compl. Well, I'l trouble you no more at present, and confess that what you say seems to have

a great deal of truth in't; but I don't know, people do complain.

A diſſwaſive from murmuring.

Cont. And ever will; but I prithee leave off this humour of murmuring, either diſprove what I have ſaid, or for ſhame bluſh to complain. Remember that you are a rational creature, don't make your own and others lives uncomfortable by refuſing to enjoy thoſe Bleſſings Providence hath heap'd upon you: St. *Paul* with far leſs liv'd a happier life. What Comfort can his Majeſtie have, when for all his good Government, Care, and Protection, you reward him with a meſs of Complaints? Don't Judaize and complain more when you are fed with Manna and Quails, than when you fed on Leeks and Garlick. Murmur not like *Corah* and his Crew when your King is *a Moſes*. You know that of 600000. that came from *Ægypt*, there went but two into the *Land of Canaan*. Moſt of the reſt periſhed for this crime. When *Moſes* beg'd any great Matter of God, he commemorated his former loving kindneſſes, and O God of *Abraham*, *Iſaac*, and *Jacob* was of great concern in a Jews petition. 'Tis the remembrance of the *French* King's Victories makes him go on with courage: And would we but conſider the great things we have done, it would perhaps make us believe nothing to be impoſſible either in Arms or Arts. Let's bleſs God for all his mercies, and particularly for our good King, whoſe greateſt Care hath been to keep us in peace, and procure us plenty, which I think will prove better arguments to gain

The word *impoſſible* a great diſcourager of Arts.

gain any needful thing, than the irksom and causeless complaints of a thousand generations. The sum of all is this; If we have great Magazines for War, and multitudes of brave Ships; If we have a Mint employ'd with more Gold and Silver than in a considerable time they can well coin; If it be an affront to cause one to drink in any worse mettle than Silver, if great part of our utensils be of the same; if our Trade be stretcht as far as any trade is known; if we have six times the Traders and most of their Shops and Ware-houses better furnisht than in the last Age; if we have abundance of more good debts abroad than credit from thence; if many of our poor Cotagers children be turn'd Merchants and substantial Traders; if our good Lands be made much better, and our bad have a six-fold improvement; if our houses be built like Palaces, over what they were in the last Age, and abound with plenty of costly furniture; and rich Jewels be very common; and our Servants excel in finery the Great ones of some Neighbour-Nations; if we have most part of the trade of the World, and our Cities are perhaps the greatest Magazines thereof; if after a destructive plague and consuming fire, we appear much more glorious; if we have an universal Peace, and our King in such renown that he is courted by all his Neighbours, and these only the marks of poverty, then I have been under a great mistake: But if it doth otherwise appear, as certainly it doth to all rational

Signs of Wealth.

Church-Yard. 1677.

tional men. Then I may ſtill go on with my maxime and ſay,

We have more Wealth now, than ever we had at any time before the Reſtauration of his Sacred Majeſtie.

A Compariſon. The Jews were never well ſetled till the time of *Saul*, and then Wealth flow'd in like water ſpilt upon the ground: you might ſee it coming, and it being a ſtranger they ſtood gazing and cry'd ahah! witneſs, *David*'s lamentation over

2 Sam. 1. 24. *Saul*, *He clothed them in Scarlet, and put ornaments of Gold upon their apparel.* But in *David*'s own time it grew to a pretty handſom brook; but in *Solomon*'s time to a profound River. But then the cuſtom of their Wealth

Our now complaints. took away the ſenſe of it, they cry'd that times were hard, there was nothing to be got, they were the old ones that got eſtates, he that would get one then, muſt have tug'd hard for t; and that ſuch like talk they had, is witneſs *Solomon*'s reproof, *Say not thou, the former times were better than theſe, for thou doſt not enquire wiſely concerning this.*

Juſt thus it hath been with *England*, Queen *Elizabeth*'s time was like *Saul*'s, when by taking a few *Spaniſh* Ships, and almoſt beginning a Navigation, made us cry ahah! In the time of King *James* and *Charles*, for want of Silver the Gold made a pretty handſom gliſtering, but now Gold doth much abound, and Silver is hard any thing eſteemed of. It flows in ſo often like a deep river, there is hardly any notice taken of it.

Compl.

Compl. I muſt confeſs I can't anſwer you, but ſurely that which every body ſaith, muſt needs be true.

Cont. Well if you are ſo wilful as not to be convinc'd, I'm ſorry, but however this advantage to my ſelf I'l reap, I'l give God thanks for his great Bleſſings, and enjoy them while you ſit murmuring and repining for what you don't want, and like *Midas* ſtarve in a monſtrous plenty. A good reſolution.

However conſider what follows.

Neither murmur ye as ſome of them alſo murmured, and were deſtroyed of the deſtroyer. 1 Cor. 10. 10.

Wo unto them, for they have periſhed in the gainſaying of Core. Jude 11.

Theſe are ſpots in your Feaſts of Charity. 12.

And are murmurers and complainers, walking after their own luſts. 16.

Your murmurings are not againſt us, but againſt the Lord. Exod. 16. 18.

Do all things without murmurings. Phil. 2. 14.

And the people ſpake againſt God, and againſt Moſes, *wherefore have you brought us up out of* Ægypt, *to die in the Wilderneſs? For there is no Bread, neither is there any water, and our ſoul loatheth this light bread.* Numb. 21. 5.

And the Lord ſent Fiery Serpents among the people, and they bit the people, and much people of Iſrael dyed. 6.

Many when a thing was lent them reckoned it to be found, and put them to trouble that helped them. Eccluſ. 29. 4.

Till he hath received he will kiſs a mans hand, and for his Neighbours money he will ſpeak ſubmiſſly: 5.

miſty: but when he ſhould repay, he will prolong the time and return words of grief, and COMPLAIN OF THE TIMES.

Rev. 22. 11. *He that is filthy, let him be filthy ſtill.*

Come Boy take money.

However dear Friend, farewel.

FINIS.

REPRODUCED FROM THE COPY IN THE

HENRY E. HUNTINGTON LIBRARY

FOR REFERENCE ONLY. NOT FOR REPRODUCTION